

# State Representative

## Rich McClain

### House District 24

## Legislative Survey



Dear Neighbor,

Session has already commenced marking the start of Indiana's 115<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, and legislators are working hard to voice the concerns of Hoosier citizens. House Republicans will again pledge to bring fiscal control to the state's budget and improve Indiana's economic landscape for future generations.

Within my newsletter you will find a 12-point plan to help continue to bring positive initiatives to the state. Some initiatives addressed in the plan include continuing to balance Indiana's budget without gimmickry or dedicated fund transfers, increased economic development, and improving opportunities for Hoosier students. Also enclosed you will find my legislative survey, which I hope you will complete so I can have a better understanding of issues important to citizens of Carroll, Cass, Miami, and White counties.

Indiana House members will continue to listen to the comments and concerns of Hoosiers, while still focusing on leading Indiana in a positive direction. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Rich McClain



*Representative McClain speaks with Senator Weatherwax regarding the Hoosier Heartland Corridor.*

### How to Contact State Rep. Rich McClain

If you have a question regarding state government, there are three ways you can contact Rep. McClain:

#### Mail

State Rep. Rich McClain  
200 W. Washington  
Room 401  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

#### Telephone

(800) 382-9841

#### E-mail

H24in.gov

### Fill Out This Survey Online!

Visit my website at  
**[www.in.gov/h24](http://www.in.gov/h24)**  
to complete this survey and send me additional comments.

# 12 Point Plan for Indiana's Progress

1. **Permanently Eliminate Taxpayer Funded Lifetime Healthcare Benefits** for House Members through legislation to be introduced in the 2007 legislative session. Last year, Republican Leader Brian Bosma eliminated the benefit administratively.
2. **Balance the 2008-09 State Budget** with no general tax increases, accounting gimmicks or dedicated fund transfers to artificially balance Indiana's books.
3. **Eliminate Partisan Gerrymandering** of Indiana's legislative and congressional districts for political gain by the party in control of the Indiana House at the end of each decade.
4. **Provide for Indiana's Energy Needs** with a focus on 'Hoosier Homegrown Energy' by making bio-diesel and ethanol more available to consumers, thus reducing the reliance on imported oil.
5. **Reform the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV)** by providing a 30-minute guarantee at the BMV and other measures to improve service and efficiency.
6. **Honor and Support Hoosier Veterans and Active Military** by increasing financial assistance to those who are serving today and their families, and honoring veterans for their service.
7. **Empower Indiana Schools** by providing more resources, more flexibility and more incentives for schools, teachers, parents, and students.
8. **Crack Down on Illegal Immigration** by broadening State Police powers to enforce federal immigration laws and ensuring that state benefits are awarded only to legal Indiana residents.
9. **Expand our Job Creation Success** and promote job growth in the small business sector where 75% of Hoosier jobs are created.
10. **Get Tough on Crime** by requiring violent felons to serve at least

85% of their sentence, protecting children from

Internet sexual predators, requiring federal background checks on caregivers of the elderly, and protecting all Hoosiers from identity theft, violent offenders, and meth dealers.

11. **Help Access Affordable Healthcare** with common sense market based solutions like providing tax credits for Worksite Health Programs, a Health Insurance Premium Deduction, and allowing coverage by a parent's policy until the age of 24.

12. **Let Hoosiers Speak on Traditional Marriage** by voting in the 115<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on SJR7 – the amendment to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman – and placing SJR7 on a referendum ballot for Indiana voters to consider in November of 2008.

## Supporting Active and Veteran Hoosier Soldiers

Over the last few months, the Commission on Military and Veterans Affairs discussed several initiatives for the upcoming legislative session. As chair of the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee I wholeheartedly support the proposed initiatives and was honored to work with the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA) helping to craft legislation for our Hoosier service men and women.

During the committee meetings, legislation was drafted to increase the Military Family Relief Fund, military tax benefits, and job training for citizens serving in our armed forces. One of the final legislative initiatives proposed by our caucus included a seven step plan to improve benefits for active and veteran members of the armed forces.

Currently, a \$2,000 military income tax deduction is given to members of the Indiana military. Under the proposed legislation, the current tax deduction would be raised to \$5,000, helping to give increased tax relief to members of the National Guard and the armed forces in Indiana. Similar legislation was proposed to help extend priority job training for members of the National Guard and spouses; recognizing their dedication to service during their military tenure.

As part of the seven point plan to provide assistance to our military men and women, House members have proposed a \$150,000 special death benefit to members of both active and reserve components of the National Guard and armed forces. Also included within the legislation is a one time \$500 activation bonus to members of the National Guard or armed forces for their service during the Persian Gulf War or after September 10, 2001. In addition, veterans' benefits were improved and endorsed by the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, including extending the high school diploma program to veterans of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, reimbursement of expenses for Medal of Honor awardees, employment criteria for IDVA and local service officers, tuition reimbursement for children of veterans, and a legislative study of a veterans' affairs trust fund.

The creation of this legislation helps provide Indiana's service men and women the support they deserve for the sacrifices they provide to protect our freedom.



*Rep. McClain discusses alternative fuel initiatives with Rep. Gutwein on the House floor.*